



News

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Cal Poly Announces \$1 Million Gift for Waste Research

Global Waste Research Institute is the first of its kind established to address global challenges created by waste and industrial byproducts

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly this month confirmed a multi-year, \$700,000 commitment to the Global Waste Research Institute from Waste Connections, Inc., that when paired with a previous donation brings the company's total gift to \$1 million.

The Global Waste Research Institute (GWRI) represents the first collaborative effort between a public university and industry to promote the development of sustainable waste and byproduct management technologies and advance current global practices in resource management.

The formation of the institute was first announced in late 2009, funded with a \$300,000 start-up grant from Waste Connections. Under the stewardship of GWRI Director Nazli Yesiller, the institute has since been expanding its service and educational offerings in preparation for its launch.

"This generous gift to Cal Poly's Global Waste Research Institute secures a visionary effort built on the university's Learn by Doing mission," said Cal Poly President Jeffrey D. Armstrong. "Waste management is an increasingly complex challenge, and these are precisely the kinds of 21st century problems Cal Poly wants to help solve.

"The institute will provide an educational and practicing platform not only for students and faculty, but also for the professional community, regulators and the general public to discover new technologies and sustainable practices for waste management," Armstrong added. "Solutions to these challenges will benefit the environment not only in California, but around the globe."

The institute aims to act as the central hub to educate and engage faculty, students and interested parties to address the risk to human life and the environment posed by the world's ever-increasing amounts of waste and industrial byproducts, Yesiller said.

“Additionally, the institute actively promotes international partnerships that help mature and developing countries 'transform waste into opportunities,’” Yesiller said. “With the funding provided by Waste Connections, GWRI can advance its goal to develop new strategies and methodologies for improved management of wastes and byproducts.”

About the Global Waste Research Institute

Located on Cal Poly's campus and headed by Director Nazli Yesiller, the institute engages faculty and students in projects that investigate all aspects of wastes and byproducts from initial generation to final disposal. The institute provides training for students, the professional community, regulators and the general public in sustainable waste and byproduct management domestically and abroad. It contributes to the overall educational focus and Learn by Doing mission of Cal Poly. Additionally, the institute actively promotes international partnerships that help mature and developing countries transform waste into opportunities.

To learn more about GWRI, visit www.gwri.calpoly.edu or call Yesiller at 805-756-2932.

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